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SENATE BILL 2819

By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5 and Section 71-1-130, relative to child welfare agencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-504(b)(1), is amended by deleting the fifth sentence in subdivision (1) that begins with the language "The committee shall cease", by designating the remaining language as subitem (b)(1)(A) and by adding the following as subitem (b)(1)(B):

(B) No later than October 1, 2000, the committee shall recommend to the commissioner enhanced standards for improving the quality of child care in child care centers, as defined in § 71-3-501, to include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) a requirement that no child be transported by a center, or its staff or any volunteer, in excess of forty-five (45) minutes one way; provided that the commissioner may grant a waiver upon a finding that limited access to child care services in the relevant geographical area necessitates longer transporting times; and

(ii) a requirement that passenger logs for transporting children shall be maintained and updated by the driver or other designated person and shall be reviewed and initialed for accuracy by a caregiver or management staff member; provided, such review shall occur immediately after unloading of all children at the agency or during field trips and when each vehicle returns to the center after transporting children to school, home or other locations.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-1-130, is amended by adding the following to the end of subsection (d):

The department shall increase the average rate paid for day care services to the extent available from funds collected from licensure fees under Section 71-3-506.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.